

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLine et al. (6,124,886).

In figure 4 of DeLine, as alleged by the Office, there are a plurality of electrical contact portions; namely, 66a-66b, 70a-70b, 66c-66d, 68a-68b and 68c-68d. Judging from the drawing, there are five pair of electrical contact portions.

In contradistinction, as shown by way of an example in Figure 4 of the present invention, there are only two pairs of electrical contact portions 8b and 8b'. To reflect in the claim that there are only two pairs of electrical contact portions, claim 4 has been amended to include the claim language consisting of two pairs of electrical contact portions.

As also shown in Figure 4 of the present invention, a body portion 6c of the present invention connecting the first and second electrical contact portions are integrated with synthetic resin 6.

These features are not disclosed in DeLine

It is well settled that:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."
Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 848 F.2d 1567, 7 USPQ2d 1057
(Fed. Cir. 1988)."

Should the Office continue to believe that independent claim 4, as amended, is anticipated by the asserted prior art, a citation of where each and every claimed feature, either as column number and line number, or figure number and reference numeral, or a combination thereof, as disclosed in the asserted prior art is respectfully requested. Should the Office determine that any claimed feature is not disclosed in the asserted prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the asserted prior art. Allowance of the claimed invention is then respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art in view of Schultz, Jr. et al. (5,097,592).

In rejecting the claimed invention, the outstanding Office Action has stated that:

"The acknowledged prior art differs from the claimed invention as the acknowledged prior art uses a wiring harness and not the claimed 'relaying component'.

Schultz Jr. et al. teaches "harnesses are difficult to handle by machine, making it difficult to automate either harness making or harness handling or to employ robotic assembly techniques. Installation errors are common." Schultz, Jr. et al. teaches that in order to solve these problems the electrical conductors and electrical terminals are encapsulated within synthetic resin.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to replace the wire harness with a circuit panel as taught by Schultz, Jr. et al. One would have been motivated to so modify the acknowledged prior art to prevent wiring errors when assembling the camera module."

This rejection is intended to reject all of claims 1-13. However, some details of independent claims 1, 4 and 6 are neither disclosed nor taught in Shultz. From reading the rejection as a whole, it is apparent that Shultz is mainly relied upon for its teaching regarding encapsulation of electrical conductors and electrical terminals.

More specifically regarding claims 1-3, independent claim 1 has specifically recited a flexible printed circuit. Neither the admitted prior art nor Shultz teach or disclose a flexible printed circuit. Naturally, there would also not be any flexible printed circuit, any first electrically connecting part and any second electrically connecting part that can be integrated with synthetic resin. Therefore, even if the admitted prior art on Shultz are combined, exactly as suggested in the outstanding Office Action, the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 1 will not result.

Regarding claims 4-5, independent claim 4 has been amended to recite a relaying component consisting of two pairs of electrical contact portions. One pair of electrical contact portions being on one end and another pair of electrical contact portions being on another end. In both the admitted prior art and Shultz, there are more than two pairs of electrical contact portions. Therefore, even if the admitted prior art and Shultz are combined, exactly as suggested in the outstanding Office Action, the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 4 will not result.

Regarding claims 6-13, independent claim 6 has been amended to recite a relaying component consisting of two pairs of electrical contact portions. One pair of electrical contact portions being on one end and another pair of electrical contact portions being on another end. In both the admitted prior art and Shultz there are more than two pairs of electrical contact portions.

Therefore, even if the admitted prior art and Shultz are combined, exactly as suggested in the outstanding Office Action, the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 4 will not result.

As independent claims 1, 4 and 6, either as is or by amendment, are patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art of record, all claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, are also patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 4 and 6 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **March 18, 2003**.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all of the pending claims, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 10/086,701

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4 and 6 as follows:

4. (Twice Amended) An auxiliary module use relaying component consisting of two pairs of electrical contact portions, comprising:
- a plurality of busbars [each having] connected to a first of said two pairs of electrical contact portions on one end thereof, and a second of said two pairs of electrical contact portions on another end thereof, and
- a body portion connecting the first and second pairs of electrical contact portions, the busbars being integrated with synthetic resin,
- wherein a first connector main body portion having the first pair of electrical contact portion if formed at one end, and a second connector main body portion having the second pair of electrical contact portion is formed at another end.

6. (Twice Amended) An auxiliary module consisting of two pairs of electrical contact portions, comprising:

a baseplate having terminals and equipped with an auxiliary;

a relaying component formed by integrally resin-molding a first of said two pairs of electrically connecting portion having terminals and a second of said two pairs of electrically connecting portion having terminals; and

wherein a connector housing for the first pair of electrically connecting portion is formed on the casing,

a connector is formed on the casing by installing the first pair of electrically connecting portion in the connector housing, and

the terminals of the baseplate are connected to the terminals of the second pair of electrically connecting portion when the baseplate is attached to the casing.